



Blundell's



DIARY

DECEMBER 2020

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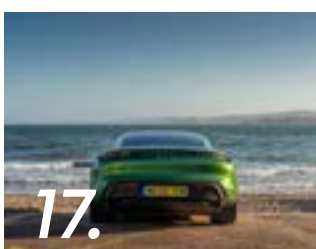
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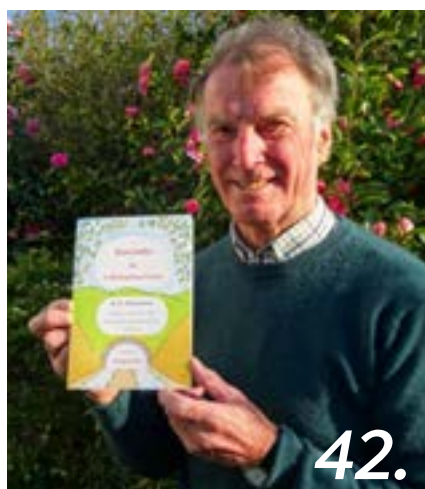
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### Front Cover:

Members of our Blundell's Choir singing in the Christmas Carol Concert in the Chapel



# Welcome

Given the circumstances, few people could have blamed the School for setting out to survive the term. Confronted with complex decisions about what pupils should or should not do, things like one-way flows, facemasks, bubbles, all became part of our daily lexicon. At times it was tempting to do as little as possible to minimise disruptions and to keep things going! There is however one unalterable fact and that is that Blundell's as an institution just is not built to simply survive. Every sinew in its constitution is strained to thrive, not just survive, so slowly but surely, as our confidence grew, we set our focus on what we could do and we put behind us those things that we could not do.



And make no mistake, there were some painful losses, especially for our Upper Sixth pupils who saw their hockey and rugby seasons evaporate before their eyes and there are a whole host of thespians who missed out on the opportunity of gracing Ondaatje Hall as the leads of the Senior School play. Other rites of passage came and went too but we became increasingly disciplined in focusing our energy and our attention on what was possible.

A poignant Remembrance Service was recorded and broadcast to Blundellians around the world. An occasion that is usually something accessible only to current pupils and some families who live locally suddenly engaged Old Blundellians in New Zealand and Canada and parents of current pupils in the Bahamas and Mumbai. Being able to share something so core to our existence with such a big audience has been a tremendous blessing to come from this. We followed it up with a beautiful Virtual Carol Service and even a Virtual Christmas Card, both events showcasing the wonderful talents of our musicians.

And just to make very sure that we were indeed thriving all the way to the end of term, we staged a hugely entertaining Christmas Games on the last Saturday of term, engaging over 400 pupils in a wide range of inter house, bubble-legal events spanning from Christmas Tree throwing to Snowball catching. It was an event requiring epic proportions of planning. And of course, to end it all with a grand finale we managed to get in a bright and cheery Christmas Market – all socially-distanced – in the carpark where we drank gallons of hot chocolate and sang melodious carols before getting dressed up for a festive Christmas Dinner.

I am so proud of how staff and pupils have risen to the occasion this term and we look forward to Spring with vigour and hope.

**Bart Wielenga** *Head*



# Chemistry

## Year 8 Atomic Models

*As part of the Year 8 Chemistry topic on the Periodic table, students were tasked to construct a model of an element of their choice.*

They had to make sure their model had the correct number of subatomic particles for their chosen element. There were some fantastic creations, using a range of materials including Lego, Christmas decorations, ping pong balls and conkers. There were also some delicious edible cake models too.

The students were able to demonstrate their understanding of atomic structure clearly and imaginatively.

**Mrs Webster**



## Dry Ice

8M's Chemistry lesson had lots of fun with dry ice creating squeaky carbon dioxide, carbon dioxide 'smoke rings' and then 'smoking' cups!



# Academic



*The hardest thing I have ever had to do...*

## Astronomy Olympiad

Harry's journey to the International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) started with success in Round 1 of the UK Physics Olympiad in November 2019, where a Top Gold placed him in the top 50 pupils in the country and gave him access to both Round 2 of the UK Physics Olympiad alongside an invitation to compete in the UK Astrophysics and Astronomy Olympiad. His stellar performance in the latter won him through to the final selection camp, where he competed against pupils who were mostly a year older than him to win the chance to represent the UK in the International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics competition. Due to Covid, this camp was moved online and, after a gruelling week of lectures and questions, Harry sat two 3 hour exams over a weekend in March 2020. He was successful enough in these to be invited as the only Year 12 pupil in the final team of 5 selected to represent the UK.

The competition was meant to include a trip to Bogotá in Colombia but, again due to the pandemic, the International Olympiad was moved online to be held in September 2020. Shrugging off this disappointment, Harry studied all summer; memorising star maps, working his way through a University textbook and practicing techniques in data analysis. This was often a frustrating exercise, lacking the usual training camps and their social interaction meant a rather lonely plod through very abstruse and abstract concepts. Nevertheless, Harry kept his work rate high and approached the (now online) competition with excitement and trepidation.

*"The hardest thing I have ever had to do"* was the summation after Harry had ploughed his way through three intense days of incredibly challenging questions. The organisers had decided to limit any online cheating by increasing the amount of questions to do and reducing the amount of time to do them in.

The next stage is unusual; after your work being assessed, it is sent back to you to check and write a document explaining your answers. There are so few people in the world who can mark at this level, that they may miss a way of solving questions that you have created. Harry was pleased to manage to find a few extra marks here and there to increase his score.



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After the results were published Harry discovered that he had been awarded a silver medal.

*Out of 260 people from over 50 countries from around the world, the top 10% get a gold medal and the next 15% a silver. He estimates from his score that he came around 40th in the world.*

The UK team notched up their best ever performance in a Physics based Olympiad with 2 Golds, 2 Silvers and a Bronze. Harry is optimistic to be selected for the team again next year and hopes that it is able to be run overseas, as it is still planned to be in Bogota.



## Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Maths Challenge is targeted at Year 12/13 Maths. This year we had 22 Bronze Awards, 13 Silver Awards and five candidates who achieved gold awards with two of those going through to the Olympiad by placing in the Top 1,000 mathematicians in the country. The Gold Award winners were Misha, Zhengyu, both in Year 13 and Liam from Year 11 as well as Harry and Ed who placed in the Top 1,000. This is a remarkable achievement not just for Harry but especially for Ed who is in Year 8.





# Geography

## Year 12 Geographers to Lyme Regis

*On a beautiful mid-September's day, 22 Geographers were treated to a day out by the sea. With the sun out for the duration, students studied the wonderful geology of the Jurassic coastline and the recent slope stabilisation scheme that has been put in place to protect the seaside resort of Lyme Regis.*

Clearly stimulated by the alternating bands of limestone and shale that make up the Blue Lias (the name for the local geology in the area), the students were able to study this important case study in its natural habitat and it was clear to see how unstable the cliffs actually are in this region. With an abundance of fossilised ammonites and belemnites, this striking stretch of coastline proved to be an attractive destination for the first Sixth Form field trip of the academic year.

**Mr Bucknell**





## Liberal Democrats Party Conference

On Thursday 24th September I received an email from the conference chair of the Liberal Democrats that my application to speak on the policy motion on a Universal Basic Income had been approved. This meant I was put into a pool of other members and any of us could be called to speak at anytime in the debate which was due to take place the next day. I hurriedly but thoroughly wrote my speech that evening, which was thankfully on a topic I had been very interested in over the summer.

Due to Covid the conference was obviously online so we were all sent a link to a Zoom call which I joined and found out the other possible speakers on this debate included the MP for East Fife, Wendy Chamberlain; the Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, Jane Dodds; and another 10 or so council leaders and members. I felt a little apprehensive but once I was called (the penultimate speaker of the debate) I felt more relaxed, and furthermore the motion passed! I received plenty of lovely messages from various Lib Dems, and now look forward to getting even more involved with the party in the future.

Misha Y13





# Biology

## Year 7 Ecology Field Studies

*Not wanting current restrictions to limit Year 7s' enjoyment of ecology, we swapped our trip to Goodrington Sands for activities on the school's grounds. Pupils rotated through three different stations to study the amazing habitats we are lucky enough to have on our campus.*

### Station 1 – The River Lowman

The river, which forms the Northern boundary of the school site, originates near Huntsham before joining with the Exe in Tiverton. Pupils were taught how to conduct kick sampling with nets and used magnifying glasses and keys to identify the fauna of the river. They caught a wide range of invertebrates, ranging from Dragonfly larvae and Backswimmers to worms. They were also extremely excited when a number of groups caught Bullheads, a type of freshwater fish. Pupils were also taught about indicator species and the presence of such a diverse range of species shows the river is very clean and healthy.

### Station 2 – Tree Survey

As well as a number of specimen trees, we have most of the trees native to UK woodlands on our campus. Pupils were given keys and had a set time limit to find, photograph and correctly identify as many different species as possible on the Ten Acre field. It soon became apparent our Year 7s love the challenge of a competition and raced around in order to show their teacher the most correctly identified trees.



### Break – Doughnuts with a 'surprise' side order...

Along with break time doughnuts, pupils were treated to a selection of edible insects, as we discussed the sustainability of using insect protein. Those brave enough to try the mealworms, crickets and grasshoppers mostly said they actually tasted quite good! I think it will be a while before we see them on the school menu, though!

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### Station 3 – Pond Dipping and Microorganisms.

One of the latest features of the School Garden is a pond. Completed at the start of lockdown, the pond is already becoming a haven for wildlife, augmenting the two smaller ponds near the Biology Department. Whilst larger amphibians such as frogs and newts are yet to move in, there are already a myriad of microscopic organisms and invertebrates in residence. Pupils carefully used nets and beakers to collect water samples to take back to the Biology Labs. Here they used their microscopy skills to look at and identify the fast moving microscopic inhabitants of the pond. Pupils were amazed by the shapes and sizes of the different creatures present, along with the sheer quantity in the tiny amounts of water placed on the microscope slides.







## The Psychology Department and Lockdown

Lockdown created some interesting opportunities for all of us, not in the least the challenge of working from home with two children – who weren't always particularly conducive to the process!

It did however allow for me to explore how I delivered the course content and I took the opportunity to do something I have been thinking about for a while and had never found the time to do; start a podcast. I needed something to engage my Year 12 students at the end of term and also spark the interest of incoming Year 11s, who were taking a Pre-A Level course designed to prepare them for what was ahead. I was conscious as a teacher but also as a parent, that the long-term screen time was likely to cause problems for students, who were now being expected to watch videos for their subjects most days. My solution was to make use of audio instead, and so **"PsychBites"** was born.



## The premise was simple; short episodes discussing an area of Psychology.

Asking questions and exploring hypotheses and research into those areas. It is important to express of course that it is very much a DIY project, and while I endeavour to present up to date research, there will be some errors at times. Hopefully however, it meets its end goal of being a podcast that makes you think.

I have enjoyed exploring a number of thought-provoking topics such as the development of children's brain and language (with my own children chatting in the background), Milgram's obedience research and the factors which leading to social change, which of course has particular resonance as we adapt to our own changing environments. How many of us now watch movies or TV shows depicting pre-Covid worlds and flinch when we see someone getting close to another person?





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It is a strange thing how implicit and yet how powerful those changes are and yet of course they have taken place in a short space of time and as a testament to humanity's adaptive and resilient nature, our brains have followed accordingly. In terms of recording the podcast, it couldn't be simpler.

I make use of a free platform called Anchor and most of the episodes were recorded in my home (except "On the Run", which I recorded while out on a run!), using my phone to capture audio and then mixing in sound clips and background music afterwards. When the episode is published, it is pushed through to a number of Podcast providers including Apple and Spotify. Searching for it is easy and when you hit subscribe, you can get updated with new episodes as they are released.

Having ended the first season in July, I hope to start a follow up season of 10 or so episodes. The ever-evolving psychology of how we are currently living is a fascinating question to explore at this time, and I hope that I will be able to continue exploring this, even if it is for no other reason than my own catharsis. Since being back at school, it has been of interest to observe again the way in which staff and students have adapted to new guidelines and operate within these parameters. It has been a challenge after having been a teacher for so long, to suddenly be faced with having to adapt the way that you would normally have taught lessons. To suddenly be faced with not being able to easily move around the classroom or get students into groups, is quite a learning curve and this has meant that staff have really had to get creative in how they demonstrate ideas in lessons.

This worked particularly well in Psychology with Year 13 recently in a lesson where we discussed the debate around determinism and free-will. Much of the psychological research that we look into concerns this discussion in some way; is our behaviour of our own free-will or just a result of internal and external forces outside of our control? For many of us we embrace the idea that we are in charge of our choices, but a lot of research would appear to indicate otherwise. Part of our in-class demonstration involved us exploring neuro-determinism by looking at how we are products of neural activity and in some cases, this activity isn't even our own.

## Human:Human Interface

In the "Human to Human Interface", one person is connected to a simple device designed to pick up the signal of the motor neurons that make up the ulna nerve in our forearm. This is then connected to another person's ulna nerve where it is possible to seemingly "control" their movements. They cannot not move when connected in this way, suggesting that their will is not their own. It was an enjoyable activity and certainly one that caused some giggles. If you are interested, you can see a demonstration below. The computer shows the electrical read out from the participant and it is my arm being manipulated by one of the Year 13 Psychology students. Very enjoyable!



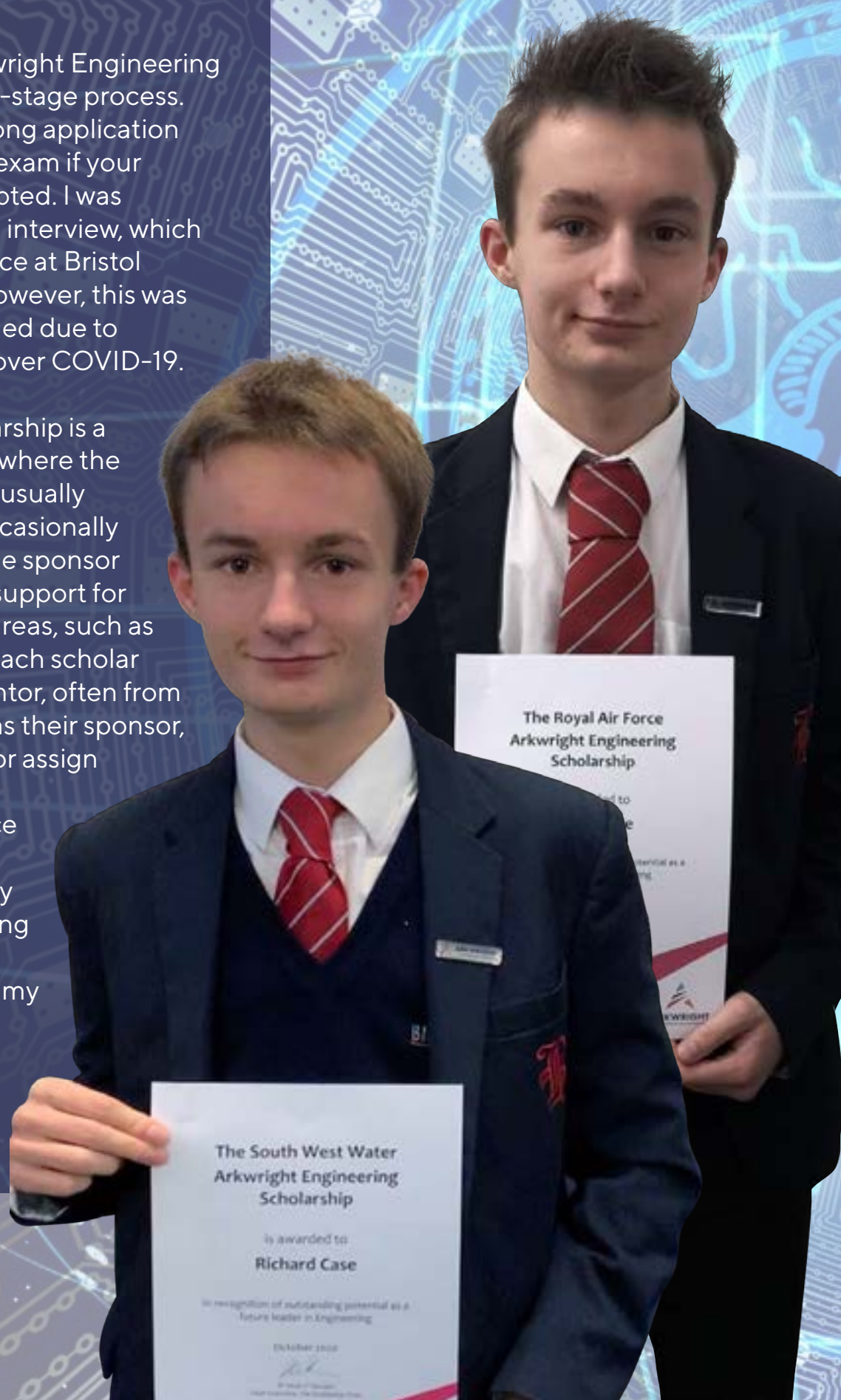


# Arkwright Experience

Applying for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a three-stage process. Usually it involves a long application form, followed by an exam if your application was accepted. I was scheduled to have an interview, which would have taken place at Bristol University, in April. However, this was unfortunately cancelled due to increasing concerns over COVID-19.

The Arkwright Scholarship is a national scholarship, where the scholar is sponsored, usually by a company, but occasionally by a single person. The sponsor gives some financial support for engineering related areas, such as projects or courses. Each scholar is also assigned a mentor, often from the same institution as their sponsor, who can give advice or assign projects and help. I found the experience of applying for the Scholarship extremely useful and enlightening and I believe it will be useful when creating my UCAS application.

David Case





# Accelerated Reader Programme



As many of you are well aware, our School House pupils are enrolled in the Accelerated Reader program from their very first week in English. Accelerated Reader enables us to identify aspects of reading skills such as comprehension, recall and inference. Students are provided with their own individual target to work towards and many of our very willing and enthusiastic readers have already reached their termly target! I am simply bowled over by School House's enthusiasm for the class competition, which has proved extremely tight and competitive thus far. The winners were 7M (Mrs Worthington's group) and 8G (Dr Perrin-Haynes class) who enjoyed a final AR reading session with a special pizza party in the FOBs café.

**Mrs Thomas**

## French Escape room

The Language Department went all out to celebrate the end of Year with a French Escape room! Five classes of Year 9 competed in teams between houses to complete various missions against the clock. Students were deeply engaged in solving puzzles as the clock ticked remorselessly. The event not only helped students revise what they learned during the term but also gave them practice in team building.



# European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages is always a fantastic opportunity for our students at Blundell's, whether they study a language or not, to have an opportunity to understand different cultures. It fits in very well with our school ethos that fosters a deep empathy, compassion for others and the optimism to make a meaningful difference in whatever setting our students find themselves in. We are very fortunate at Blundell's to have students with so many different backgrounds and from different nationalities. This day is our way to celebrate and promote our diversity and our differences.



This year, we wanted to really focus on learning languages that our students could re-use in "real life" situations and encourage our students to practise the different languages they are learning at school outside of the classroom. With this in mind, our Year 9 students learnt basic sentences to be able to order food and drinks in German, Spanish and French.

They then put their skills to the test in the Blundell's garden by ordering hot chocolate and cakes. School House students went for a treasure hunt with a language theme and got to learn about lots of different cultures. As usual, our catering team put together a fantastic lunch with a European theme.

The day was another great success and we are already looking forward to next year with more projects and initiatives to bring languages to life in our very multicultural school and give our students plenty of opportunities to understand and enjoy learning about different cultures and how, speaking another language is such an asset in life.

**Mr Lecharpentier**





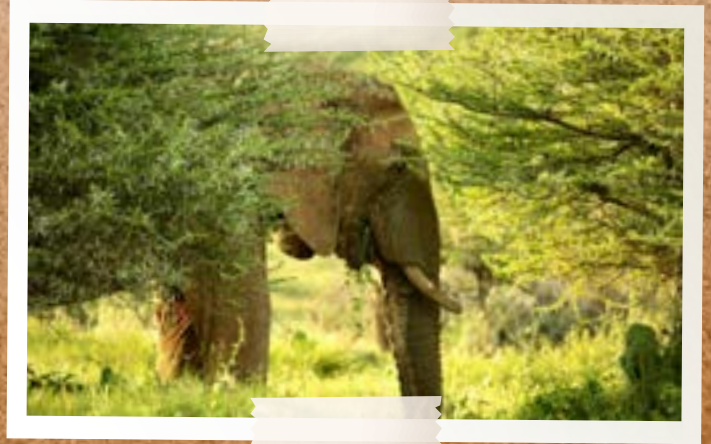
# Summer Photography Competition



Senior Student winner: Harry Y12



Staff winner: Mr Bowley

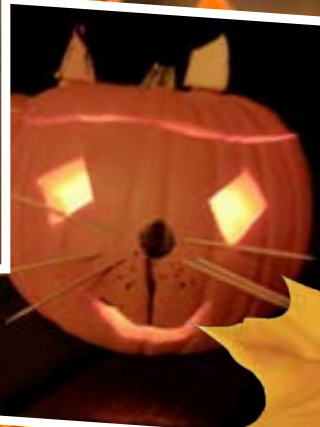


Junior Student winner: Roan Y9

## Year 7 Pumpkin Carving Competition



Winner: Nathan





# Creative Arts



## Gold Arts Award

Last year Blundell's Art Department launched the Trinity Art Award – a range of unique creative qualifications that support young people to grow as Creative Artists and Leaders. Ranging from Bronze to Gold, students explore opportunities to extend their knowledge and develop skills in the Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Literature, Digital and Media and any combination of these art forms.

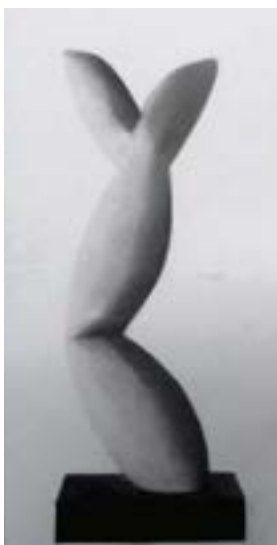
Throughout the lockdown, three Year 12 students who had started their Gold Award continued their activities remotely despite having to adapt to difficult circumstances and tight restrictions due to the pandemic. They are now the first in school to successfully be awarded the Trinity Gold Award in the Arts. This Level 3 qualification is independently undertaken and supported by Mrs Armstrong-Williams, and also gains them a valuable 16 UCAS points towards university entrance. Well done to William, Grace and Gemma.



Gemma



Will



Will







# Drama

## CRAVE

### Sara Kane's Crave

On Thursday 5th November, the A Level Drama students came to the Ondaatje Theatre to enjoy a socially-distanced live streaming of Sara Kane's Crave produced by the Chichester Festival Theatre. Afterwards, they took part in a Q&A with Mrs Polly Whitfield who directed this production at the Northcott Theatre a few years ago. She was able to give them an alternative interpretation of the play and some tips and techniques for devised and directing their own pieces of drama.

**Mrs Winsley**

### Adaptive Learning

Our creative Drama teachers adapted their Y12 A Level Drama lesson for remote learning, by exploring performance possibilities using a 'stage in a box'.

## SWEENEY TODD

Rehearsals have restarted for Sweeney Todd. What was last year's School House play will now be a Year 9 play. The cast are excited to share this classic story of gothic horror and romance.

This is an adaptation that has been written by the cast and it promises to have a modern contemporary twist.

Watch this space and as soon as we can, we look forward to entertaining you. It certainly will be nice to have live theatre back in Ondaatje again! - **Mr Rochfort**



## Certificate of Excellence

Each year, the academy that awards the Speech and Drama examinations, also presents various awards of excellence to the students who achieve the highest grades worldwide in their specialism.

Examinations are taken across the globe (from Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Spain, France, to name but a few) and we are delighted to announce that for the last academic year Scarlett has been awarded the Myrtle Moss Certificate of Excellence for Grade 6 Acting. This is a huge accolade and a true testament to all the hard work and dedication she has brought to the department since joining in Year 12 and is fully deserving of the award.



## Speech and Drama Examinations

On Thursday 24th September 29 students took their Speech and Drama examinations. We are delighted to announce that we achieved 100% Distinctions across the board. Congratulations to the following on their achievement:

### Acting

**Grade 4** – Evie (Y11)

**Grade 5** – Sophia (Y11), Lochy (Y11), Louis (Y11), Lola (Y10), Evie (Y10), Nick (Y11) & Harvey (Y11)

**Grade 6** (Bronze Medal) – Kaira (Y12), Jessica (Y12), Eloise (Y12), Cerys (Y12) & Beth (Y11)

**Grade 7** (Silver Medal) – Erica (Y13)

### Devising

**Grade 3** (Foundation Medal) – Emilia & Arabella (Y9)

### Speaking of Verse & Prose

**Grade 5** – Liam Li (Y11) & Finnian (Y10)

### Speech & Drama

**Grade 2** – Harry & Matthew (Y9)

**Grade 6** (Bronze Medal) – Jemima (Y13)

**Grade 7** – (Silver Medal) – Molly & Alice (Y13)

### Spoken English

**Grade 4** – Artem (Y10)

**Grade 5** – Mandy (Y9)  
Pierre-Louis (Y10)

### Reading for Performance

**Grade 6** (Bronze Medal) – James & David (Y12)

**Grade 8** (Gold Medal) – Alex (Y12)



# Music at Blundell's

Instrumental and Choral Music has, of course, been hugely affected by Covid-19. The Orchestra, Main Choir, Big Band, School House Orchestra and other large ensembles cannot run due to their size and the number of cross bubble groups. We have also been unable to rehearse in our normal slots due to the changes in structure in the school day. Instrumental music lessons have been far less 'hands on' for obvious reasons, and screens and distancing have become second nature to the pupils and the teachers.

In order to keep the musical provision going to a high standard and to avoid the sense of a 'lost generation' of musicians, the department has put in place a huge number of smaller chamber ensembles. Initially these were for Music Scholars and as we became more confident as a school, other musicians were invited and welcomed into the music making.

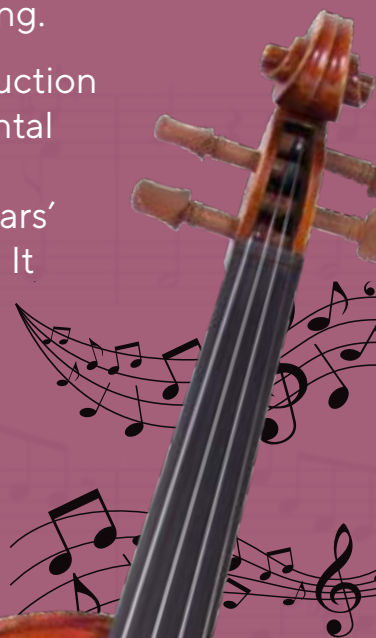
A major difference this year is of course the reduction of events and concerts for choral and instrumental music and there is no live Carol Service, Remembrance Service, Harvest Service, Scholars'

Concert, Christmas Concert or Team-time concerts. It was also particularly devastating to have to cancel the long-planned partnership concert with the Southern Sinfonia that was to feature the Instrumental and Choral music of Bernstein (who died 30 years ago this year) and Beethoven (born 250 years ago this year).

Instead we have had to satisfy ourselves with recording music without an audience. This has included the 'virtual' Remembrance Service and a Carol Service, a 'Virtual' Scholars' Concert and a solo-performance concert.

We have found one of the biggest challenges in performing and recording such music being the distance the bubbled students have to spread apart, which makes musical communication very hard. But this is a challenge the pupils are coping extremely well with.

The quality of the music-making has been really superb and the students have responded incredibly well to the new way of working. We are desperate for performances to return, including Main Choir and Orchestra, but whilst we still live under the cloud of Covid, one thing is sure, the department will do all it can to make sure that Music remains alive, well and thriving at Blundell's.





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## 'Carols from Blundell's' – The School's Virtual Carol Service

For many years Blundell's has ended the Autumn Term with a Carol Service. In the last six years we have alternated between Exeter Cathedral and a service here in Chapel. This year the school would have been in Chapel. Whilst we cannot celebrate in the usual way we have, nonetheless, planned a "virtual service". It will be filmed in candlelight and will include a number of seasonal favourites as well as readings from the traditional "Nine Lessons". We hope very much that you'll be able to join us from the comfort of your homes on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the season in time-honoured fashion.

The Rev'd Tim Hunt, Chaplain



## London Chamber Orchestra

At the beginning of November the Year 9 Instrumental Music Scholars began our annual outreach project with the London Chamber Orchestra working with children in a special needs school in Berkshire. This year the mentor training and introductions took place virtually using Teams. The students were fantastic ambassadors and presented their passion for their instruments superbly, inspiring the Berkshire students to choose an instrument to learn for the project. We are keeping all our fingers crossed that May's joint concert with the Orchestra can take place. – Dr Leaman



# Enrichment

## Thank you NHS

Year 7 and 8 were challenged to use themselves to produce a flower shape to be photographed by a drone. It certainly was a challenge and I don't think it will win any competitions but it was great fun and the later photo taken which simply said 'Heart NHS' was a far more important message.



## Really Wild Animals

For one of our afternoon academic enrichment Roots and Wings sessions, School House was visited by old friend and former staff member, Kim Insull and some of his friends from Really Wild Learning. These friends included three snakes, two lizards, reptiles and a whole lot of creepy crawlies and other insects! It was a brilliant experience getting to meet all these amazing animals and, although we weren't able to touch them because of Covid reasons, it was still really interesting finding out ways we can help to protect their species in the future and we are all very grateful to Kim for coming to speak to us in these difficult circumstances.

- Mimi (Y7)



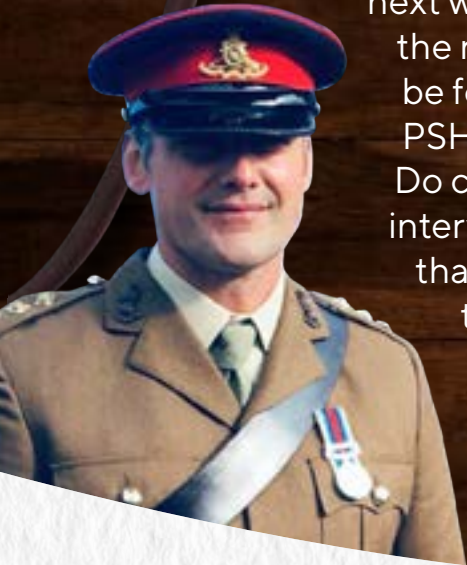


## Careers Podcast

Daniel Y10 and Oliver Y10 have been doing impressive work on the Careers Podcast. Dan has been interviewing members of staff about their careers before teaching whilst Oli has been learning to use a professional grade editing software to render crisp and concise interviews.

The first interview this term was with Mr Lambert who spoke about his time working as an aerospace engineer for Rolls-Royce, both in the U.K. and in Hong Kong. Up next was Mr Boswell from the Development Office, who spoke of the rigours and thrills of a career in the Army. Both interviews can be found on the Engagement and Enrichment website, under PSHE and Life Skills. Up next is Mr Rochfort, on life as an actor. Do continue to check the webpage as interviews will continue to be added, thanks to the fantastic response that we have had from both the teaching community and the OB network.

- Mr Dudgeon



## Hospiscare

Having previously known very little about Hospiscare and the work they perform in Devon, I came away from the lecture feeling as though I could practically go out and help them right there and then. Andrew Randall, the Chief Executive of Hospiscare, adeptly conveyed copious amounts of information, which he was clearly very passionate about, in a manner that was easy to understand, providing us with a true sense of the critical work Hospiscare do. Mr Randall managed to bring up a whole host of compelling issues, ranging from the dangers associated with lack of funds in a certain month to the inevitable rise or decline in occupancy depending on external factors. Yet, what struck me the most, was the speaker talking about the people that work there. They are the ones who truly know what it's like to see different faces constantly coming and going, whilst all the while supporting each and every one with a unique and individualistic approach. No day there can possibly be the same and Mr Randall really highlighted this, leaving me with a lasting impression on how imperative the work that Hospiscare do is and the impressive breadth of compassion and care they show to all patients.

- Tristan Y11





# Sports

## Oliver Bonas County Show Jumping Championships

The 70 Team, consisting of Daisy (Y8), Jessica (Y8), Isabella (Y7) and Jemima (Y7) all went clear and the team came 3rd. Jessica came 8th overall and 7th for the County.

The 80 Team, consisting of Jessica, Lucy (Y10), Jasper (Y10) and Ruby (Y9) all went clear, the team came 2nd and qualify for the NSEA National Championships at Addington in March 2021.

The 90 Team, consisting of Matilda (Y12), Molly (12), Ruby (Y9) and Lucy (Y10) all jumped well and the team came 5th. Molly came 6th and Matilda came 8th for the County placings.

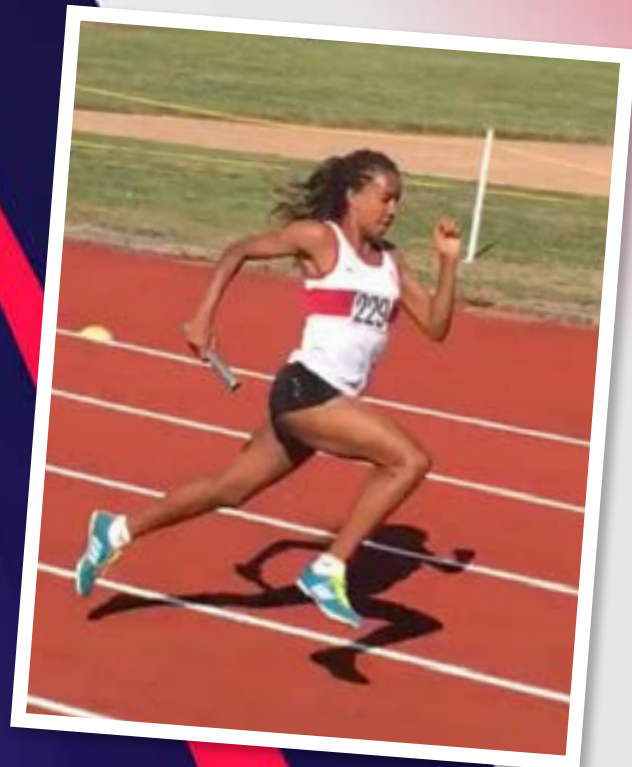
Our thanks to Simon Joyner for being the Team Manager.





## British Athletics Youth Talent Programme

In October, Meg was selected to take part in the 2020-22 British Athletics Youth Talent Programme. This is the first step on the England Talent pathway. During this programme, she will have the opportunity to develop a broad range of skills, abilities and behaviours needed for senior success, as well as having the opportunity to talk with nutritionists, psychologists and sports scientists on how to improve her performance.



Meg says: "Athletics has always been a big part of my life. I have been a member of Exeter Harriers since I was 12. I started off being a cross country runner before broadening out to compete in Pentathlons which progressively became Heptathlons. Heptathlon is a tough event as it requires lots of training in different disciplines. After finishing the challenging two-day event, there is always a feeling of accomplishment if I feel I have performed well. This summer was disappointing as I didn't have the chance to compete. Nevertheless, I am really looking forward to starting the programme, competing next season and will hopefully have the chance to compete in some indoor athletics in the early months of 2021".

Miss Gill: "Meg is a hugely talented athlete and we are delighted that she has achieved recognition for this. Having competed for England in the Pentathlon as an U15, we know she has the speed, endurance and technical ability to go on to be a successful athlete and this programme will support her in achieving the next step."

- Megan Y12 and Miss Gill





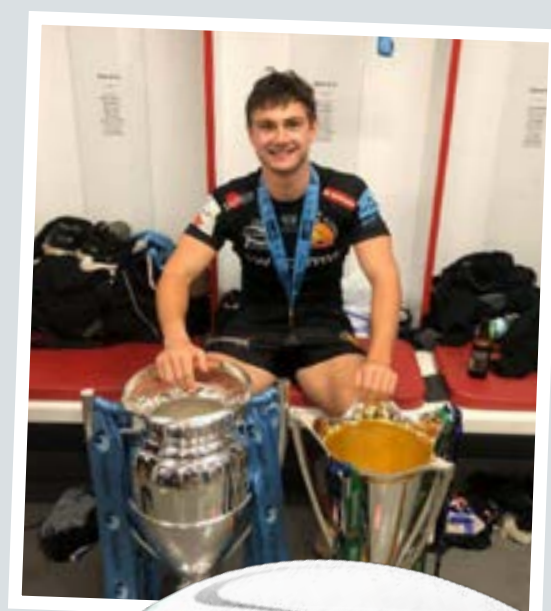
## ISCA U18 championship

From September 2019 to August 2020, 4 of our senior hockey players, Maddy, Kitty, Ellie, Alice and OB Betty played for the ISCA U18 championship team. Over a period of 11 months we played many matches including narrowly beating Clifton 3-2 in penalty flicks and beating Sevenoaks in a thrilling semi-final. After a long period of lockdown, on the 5th September, we travelled up to Nottingham to play in the Tier 2 championship Final against Beeston Hockey club. With a quick goal we took the lead from the first minute however Beeston soon equalised. Luckily through a solid set of small unit play and high intensity and focus we managed to secure another goal to take the lead back to 2-1. The ping-pong game continued with Beeston once again equalising, yet luckily just before half time OB Betty converted a short corner to take us to 3-2. After a gutsy performance we managed to hold off the opposition to win the final 3-2. It was an amazing way to end last season and a great kick starter for this season.



## Congratulations Jack Maunder

All of us within the Blundell's Community would like to congratulate Jack and all the Exeter Chiefs players and staff involved in the outstanding achievement of becoming Premiership and European Champions of 2020. It will undoubtedly be a season he and most others will never forget. In a year with so much uncertainty surrounding us, I know that I am speaking for many of our community that being able to watch Jack and his fellow teammates show huge amounts of courage and endeavour has ensured that we too keep high spirited and most importantly together as one large family. Congratulations again from all here at Blundell's.





## Milly Tanner

Milly spoke to my Year 13 class about her experience of the Talent Identification process and British cycling athlete selection. She told the class that she started as a swimmer while studying at Millfield when at 17 she was encouraged to go through the Discover your power programme. She went through a screening process as was selected as a Podium potential athlete, she moved to Manchester to take up cycling full time and studies for a University degree part time online. She has had a lot of success at various levels and competed all around the world. At 21 years old now she is working towards the next stage of the process 'Podium', which if she is successful would take her on the road to the following Olympic games. The students heard about the realities of being a full time athlete, her day to day life as well as the financial and medical support she receives from various organisations. It brought the theory we had learnt in class into the real world and was extremely interesting to hear it from an athlete's point of view who has gone through the process.

**Miss Manley**, Head of Physical Education



## Kayaking

Our Kayak Racing Squad had some great training sessions this term. We are so lucky to have the Grand Western Country Park on our doorstep.





## Swimming Gala

After the disappointment of not being able to swim in the Summer Term, the sun smiled happily on us for September and we were able to offer both swimming training and galas to all pupils in the school. It was good to be back on poolside or in the water and a real treat to be using our pool in September.

Training sessions were offered to SH pupils during activity time on a Monday and the senior pupils (Years 9 – 13) were given the opportunity to get in the water on a Wednesday afternoon. All sessions were 'covid-friendly' in 'bubbles' (rather appropriately!) and there was a good take up of this opportunity. Thank you to Alan Richards for getting the pool beautifully warm in double quick time – we really appreciated this opportunity.

We were also able to hold inter-house galas for pupils from Years 10, 11 and 12 and Year 7. These turned out to be the icing on top of our cake; such fun afternoons with positive atmospheres, tight competitive races and some great swimming.

## Results

<b>Year 7</b>	1st Amory, 2nd Mayfield, 3rd Gornhay, 4th Beale
<b>Year 10</b>	1st GH (Girls) 1st Petergate (Boys)
<b>Year 11</b>	1st OH
<b>Year 12</b>	Year 12: 1st GH and NC (Girls) 1st Petergate (Boys)





# Co Curricular

## Williams Cup

Those of you who were at Blundell's for Year 9 will remember your weekend away at Wimbleball Lake for the Williams Cup, but current circumstances have not allowed that. The current Year 9s were therefore not able to enjoy the sunny evenings or cold wet nights that so many of you will remember from your own experience. Instead the usual challenges of axe throwing, archery and catapult building were based on Ten Acre on Field Day along with orienteering, various team challenges and mountain boarding for the first time. The event was just as much the Inter House Competition as previous years. On the day GH were judged by the Instructors from Channel Adventure to be the most engaged House, winning a box of chocolates but the overall scores are:

1st Gorton House - 1251  
2nd Francis House - 1110  
3rd Old House - 1028  
4th Petergate - 979  
5th North Close - 903

The Williams Cup for Endeavor is awarded to the Year 9 who despite being out of their comfort zone showed great engagement with all the opportunities on offer and made the absolute most of taking part. This year the Williams Cup for Endeavor goes to Larissa from GH. - Mr Olive





# Field Day

We embarked on Autumn Field Day a little apprehensive not knowing where the Pandemic might turn next. But the school saw this as an opportunity to put smiles on the faces of Blundellians after Lockdown 1, which for some was challenging. The whole school embarked on a series of Outdoor Activities, the biggest challenge was ensuring all the students travelled and maintain group bubbles throughout, as a result several additional activities were arranged.

Year 7 and 8 went to outdoor adventure locations in South Dartmoor conducting numerous outdoor activities from bushcraft, climbing, zip wire and archery, whilst Year 9 completed the normal William's Cup Challenges though in school completing the accustomed axe throwing and new this year skate boarding.

Year 10 went to two different locations, the River Dart Country Park completing a High Ropes Adventure and Somerset where a series of team building challenges created a day of competitive fun. Year 11 saw students surfing, fishing, mountain biking and Segway, all fun activities which brought respite from the weeks of isolation. Year 12 Leadership Skills and Teambuilding abilities were challenged on the Quantocks with many learning a great deal about themselves and others.

It was not all work for Year 13 either, after a morning of UCAS and Oxbridge training many students managed to get out for the afternoon surfing at Westward Ho. Overall a fantastic day of outdoor activities, enabling friendship to build and broaden the smiles on our young Blundellians.

– Mr Dawe





## Head of Corps

Toby's commitment and dedication to the Combined Cadet Force has been unfailing. He progressed through the ranks to Cadets Sergeant Major, having completed the Basic and Advanced, Army Proficiency Certificates. He has also proven to be an excellent shot, achieving First Class on all the cadet weapon systems.



Throughout his time in CCF he has developed his leadership qualities, adapting his style accordingly to each group or individual. Having already completed the Junior Leaders ILM course he has recently passed his BTEC Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community. These courses have without doubt shaped his leadership style, giving him the confidence to make decisions and formulate plans quickly.

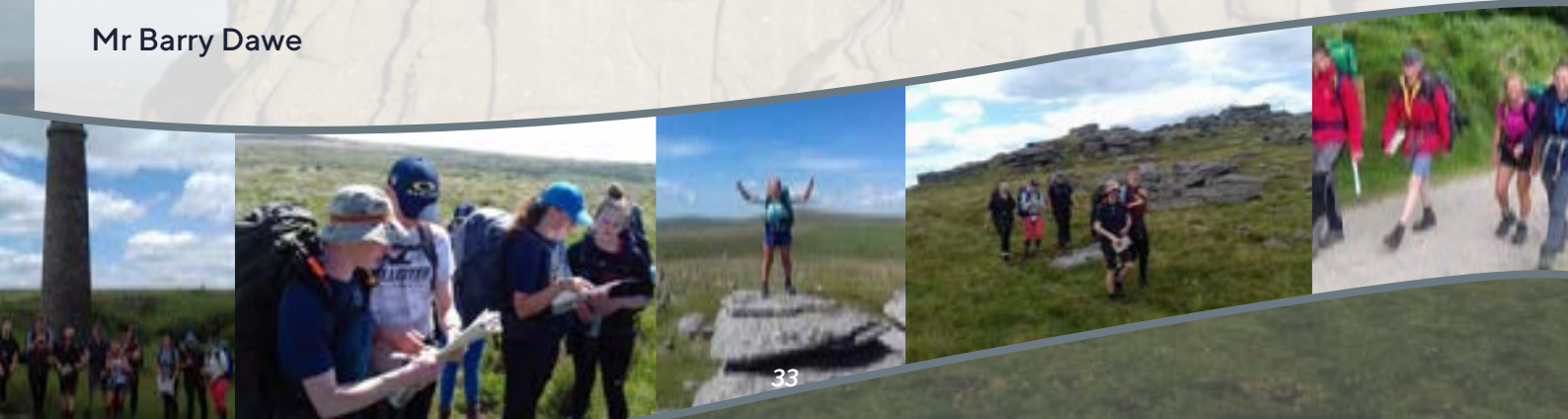
This year has seen him support the senior cadets and more recently he has been actively involved in teaching and mentoring the junior cadets. Over recent years he has balanced this commitment with Ten Tors training, canoeing, Academic studies and his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mr Dawe

## Duke of Edinburgh

During the first five weeks of the summer break with rules surrounding Corona-virus being relaxed slightly offered the opportunity for some of our Duke of Edinburgh students to complete their expeditions. With face masks, temperature checks and social distancing in place nine Gold and eleven Silver Award students set off on their expeditions. Each group had to complete two expeditions on Dartmoor during the four weeks, navigating approximately 15 kilometres each day across the moor, whilst being assessed on navigation, camping and cooking skills, along with completing an aim, each group having decided on their aim prior to departure, a mixture of letterbox hunting (hidden boxes across the moor), CIST hunting (Bronze Age graves), completing a VLOG, wildlife pictures and Tor statues, so plenty to do whilst walking. All the students should be commended on their positive approach during challenging times, also the support from parents throughout was greatly appreciated.

Mr Barry Dawe





# Blundell's Garden Café

The Garden Café opened on Wednesday 16th September and the garden quickly filled with pupils and staff who were able to social distance or sit in their bubbles and enjoy the sunshine. Smoothies and tray bakes were on the menu and everything was run by members of the Blundell's Community Partnership Team supported by the Catering Team.

This first opening was a huge success and was followed by a languages themed opening to celebrate European Day of Languages which saw hot chocolate and pain au chocolat added to the menu.





# Remembrance

***Remembrance is important. It contains lessons, lessons about our past and, more importantly lessons for the future.***

The Blundellians of today will make their mark on the world and, for them to be unaware of the tragedy and pity of war would be wrong. It has often been said that Remembrance is, in normal years one of the best events we do as a school. It is moving, dignified and poignant. While we could not replicate the experience of all being together in Chapel and the thunderous rendition of the much-loved hymns, doing it on video gave a host of other opportunities that would not be available in more normal times. We could explore the artwork of our current students, use photographs of German and British graveyards, and see the ceremony from new perspectives.

***It is important that the current Blundellians connect with their predecessors.***

The fallen were remembered by current Blundellians who hold the same posts that they did, and we closed with a recreation of an OTC photograph from 1912 using the current CCF. That the OTC of 1912, many of whom would have been killed in the following few years, were parading on the lawn where their memorial now stands makes it all the more poignant.

***The other theme it is important to remember is the lost promise of that generation.*** Hearing the stories of their bravery, their achievements at school and beyond, brought that home. Harry List's extraordinary mathematical achievements and the bright future that doubtless lies before him made so very clear what was lost in the death of Percy Walsh a hundred years ago. Percy, like Harry, won the Russell and was a School Monitor. He was also the best mathematician that the school had seen. The late Janet A'Lee's comprehensive archive of those lost in the war contained many, many more tragic examples of such loss.

***The current Blundellians understood the point.*** Their dignity and respect shone through. They were patient during filming on what was a cold and blustery day. There was much waiting around, and their patience was remarkable. They, as Blundellians always do, understood the importance of what we were doing and rose to the occasion.

***If you have not seen the service it is available on our website:***  
[www.blundells.org/Useful-Information/Remembrance.aspx](http://www.blundells.org/Useful-Information/Remembrance.aspx)

**Mr Berrow**





# The War Memorial

*100 years ago, in 1920, a school traumatised by the losses of a few years before dedicated its war memorial.* Poignantly it stands on the spot where the CCF had paraded before the war and is overlooked by the names of those cadets who had not returned from France and Belgium. At the time it was dedicated, the last global pandemic, the Spanish Flu was coming to an end and they chose the shape for their memorial from the Eyam plague cross.

Eyam is a village in Derbyshire which, during the Black Death, chose to quarantine themselves at the expense of many of the villagers' lives rather than leave the village and spread the plague. It was this symbol of self-sacrifice that the Blundell's community of a century ago chose to represent those who had given their lives in the war.





# Charity

Overall Bea  
raised over  
**£5,000.00**  
for Hospiscare!

I started to raise money for [Hospiscare](#) in January 2019, whilst taking part in the Balsa challenge in Blundells Prep. Our task was to raise money for a charity and support them in some way. I chose Hospiscare because we had visited Pine Lodge with school and they are an amazing local charity. I decided to make tea towels, and as I am known as Bea, I called them 'Bea's Teas'. I love art so I used my own watercolour paintings as the designs.

To help me get my tea towels produced my family's company, Walter H. Squires & Son, paid for the initial batch to be produced, but these soon sold out and I needed to get a second batch produced, so I approached a few local businesses and asked them to sponsor me, they were Lola Care, Muddifords Court Country House, Diamond Estate Agents, Milne Friend and Partners, and The Mini Market. I got a stall at some Christmas Markets which were Blundell's Christmas Market, The Panier Christmas Market and Moorhayes Christmas Market. I also sold them in shops! They were Diamond Estate Agents, Tesco Petrol Station, Sarah's Kitchen, Heathcoat Fabric Retail Shop, Hydro Hub, Zone, Luzonian Books and The Painted Peacock. After a couple of weeks all of the shops had sold out too! I was interviewed on BBC Radio Devon Sunday breakfast show. Everything was going really well and then Covid-19 came along which meant I had to stop selling them.

I didn't want the Pandemic to stop me fundraising, so while I was thinking of new designs, I did a hula-hoop challenge where I hula-hooped for 26 minutes a day for 26 days and managed to raise over £400.00. At the start of September, I launched a new range which were 'Bea's Teas Bags'! They were tote bags with my new water colour designs on them. I started to sell them online and I was able to go to a pop-up Market at Bridwell Park and sell them. All my tote bags sold out and I raised a further £1,856.45. My most recent venture is 'Bea's Teas Cups'. These are mugs with my most popular bee design on them, which can be purchased for £10. If anyone would like to buy a 'Bea's Tea Cup' they can follow me on [Instagram \(@beas\\_t eas\)](#) or [Facebook \('Bea's Teas'\)](#) and send me a direct message. Alternatively, you can email me [beasteasbags@gmail.com](mailto:beasteasbags@gmail.com) to place an order. I now have over 2,000 followers on Instagram but I still love getting new followers so please follow me to keep an eye on my exciting projects!





# Cancer Research UK cycling challenge

Old Blundellian's Liam Lewis, Matt Hague and ex Blundell's teacher Jonny Fairclough undertook the Cancer Research UK cycling challenge back in September. The motivation behind this was to support a friend who had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. The challenge was for each individual to complete 300 miles in September. It was a great opportunity to explore some of the local countryside and get a bit fitter doing so. The boys completed the distance on September 28th, finishing back at Heathcoat Cricket Club.

over  
£2,400  
raised!



They managed to raise over £2400 in total, thanks to the incredible donations from friends, family, colleagues and the local community.



## Committee

Our Charity committee have had a busy term raising money for some great causes. From selling handmade crafts, knitted poppies and candy canes to a Christmas Jumper Day the students have not let Covid get in the way of raising some much needed funds. We are delighted to have raised nearly £1,000 which will be split between our three main charities which are CHAT, DS Active and Force Cancer Charity.

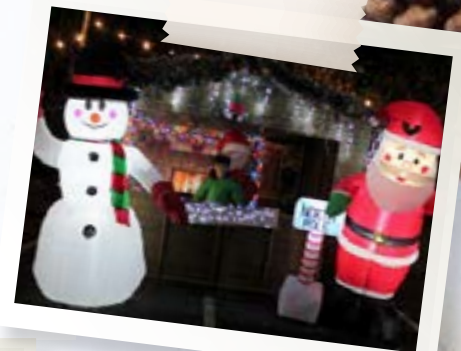






# Christmas at Blundell's

To commemorate the end of term there was plenty of festive spirit at Blundell's. This included a Santa fun run, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas themed netball festival, Charity Christmas fair, Christmas Cabins, Carol Concert and of course the annual Gut.





# Old Blundellian Survey:

Thank you to all that recently participated in the Development & Old Blundellian Club Survey. It was lovely to hear from so many of you (400+ replies!). There has been some great feedback, but it has also been reassuring to hear that so many of you are enjoying the things that we currently offer. Based on the feedback, the Development Office & Old Blundellian Club will be taking immediate action on the following requests. We will continue to look at the feedback and we hope to make more positive enhancements in due course. If you have not taken the survey already and wish to have your say, please contact the Development Office for the link.

- More Alumni Updates including 'Where Are They Now' updates
- Easier to read electronic Diary
- Death Notifications in the Diary
- More Class Reunions



## Impact Report

To better report on our Development related activities, we now produce an annual Impact Report (or Annual Report). A full copy can be found on our website or we will be happy to post a copy on request. Here is a quick summary of the initiatives we have undertaken last year (Sept 2019 to Aug 2020).



# Former Rugby Player Swims the Channel

**Rupert Allhusen** (FH 1993–98)

***On 6 September, Rupert Allhusen swam the Channel in 15hrs and 15 minutes.***

Rupert was always a keen swimmer while at School and post Blundell's he joined Richmond Rugby Club while at Brunel University, earning over 150 1st XV caps, before touring with the Richmond Heavies to Argentina. He won an Oxford Blue in 2007. At 2am on Sunday 6 September he began his next challenge – swimming the Channel!

"In pitch black, I jumped off a boat and swam to the Abbots Cliff beach to scramble up the shingle and start from dry land. There was a klaxon from my pilot boat, the Gallivant, and I set off in the darkness with my green light flashing," says Rupert.

"One of the worst parts was, because I stayed close to the boat for safety in the dark, I took on quite a lot of diesel fumes which made me nauseous. For four or five hours, I could see France but the ability to reach it is driven entirely by the tides, which is mentally quite challenging."

"It was great that when I swam up to the beach in France and waded out, all the French people there were standing up shouting "Allez! Allez! Allez!" as the boat captain clocked my time at 15 hours 15 minutes. When you look back it is having done it that matters, time is irrelevant."

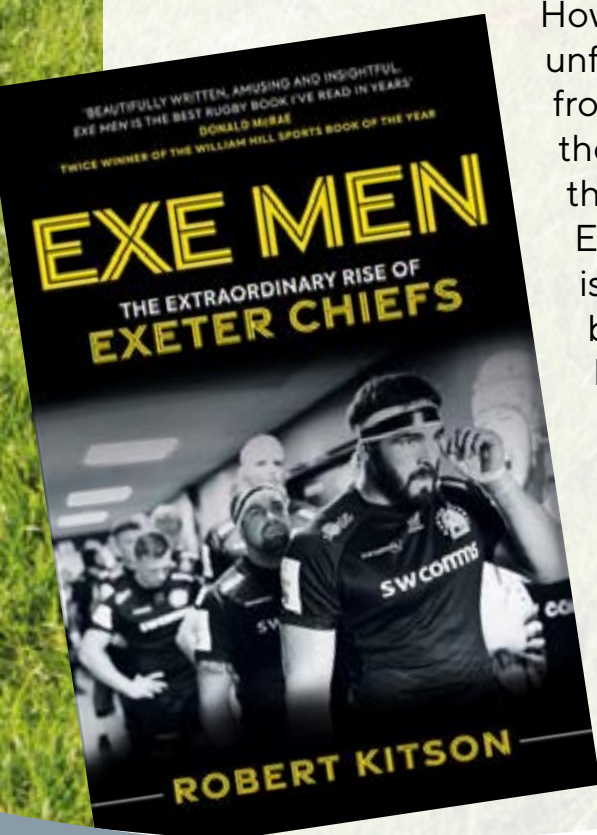
**Rupert was able to fund raise £37,630** which was over his target of £34,300 which was the distance he swam (34.3 miles). The money will support CMV Action, the charity aiming to educate, vaccinate, and eradicate CMV. The other charity is Richmond Heavies Defibrillator Fund, providing defibrillators, training and maintenance to rugby clubs through the Heartbeat Trust.

**To donate or discover more about  
Rupert's epic swim visit:**

[www.iamswimmingthechannel.com](http://www.iamswimmingthechannel.com)



## 'Exe Men' – The Rise of the Exeter Chiefs



How, exactly, did an unfashionable rugby club from Devon emerge from the lower leagues to become the double champions of England and Europe? The remarkable story of the Exeter Chiefs is the subject of a new book, 'Exe Men', written by a recent Blundell's parent and local resident, Robert Kitson, who has charted the team's relentless rise over the past three decades and tracked down all the key individuals involved.

Copies available from either your local book shop or via Polaris Publishing.

[www.polarispublishing.com/book/exe-men](http://www.polarispublishing.com/book/exe-men)

## Buscombe or, A Michaelmas Goose

*By R.D. Blackmore and edited by Douglas Rice*

When R. D. Blackmore was Head Boy of Blundell's School in Devon, he was invited to spend an autumn holiday at Burlescombe Vicarage. It was a rural idyll, especially as the other guests were two lovely girls. Written more than 40 years later, this little-known piece, is a poignant memoir of early romance and youthful vanity.

Douglas Rice was formerly Head of English at Blundell's School.

**Buscombe is on sale at** Tiverton Museum of Mid-Devon Life and at Liznojan Books, Gold Street, Tiverton.

**It is also available by post,** price £7.00 including p&p in UK only; please make cheques payable to D. Rice and send to Lower Hazel Books, 40 Tidcombe Lane, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4EQ.





# NHS Key Worker

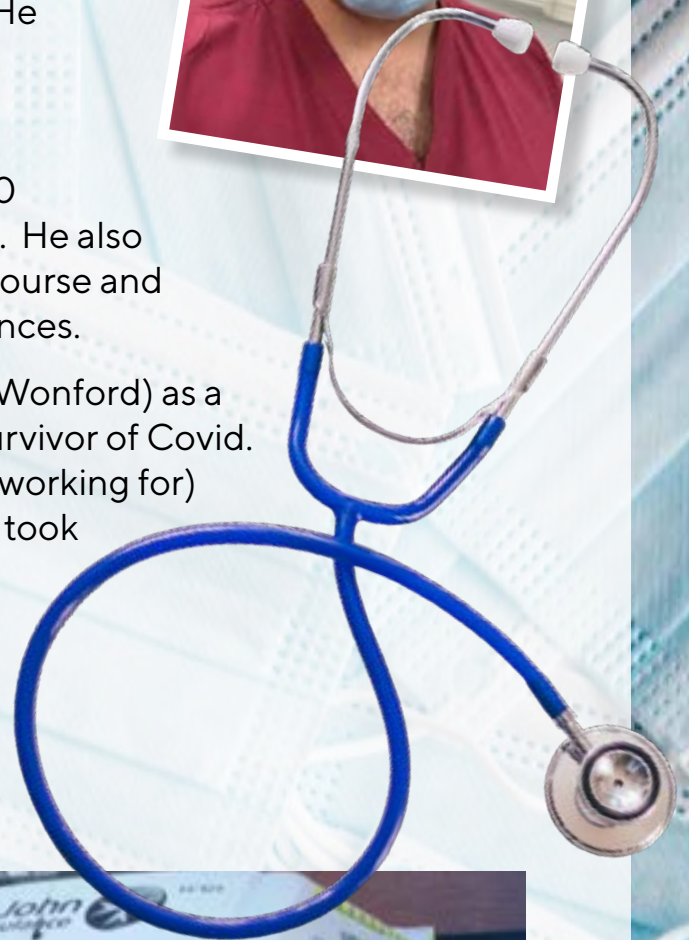
## Jonathan Lane (P 2010-17)

Jonathan Lane, opted to remain at university during lock-down to support the NHS. He is an advanced first aider with St John Ambulance and worked in a voluntary capacity at Torbay Hospital (screening potential Covid patients!). These were 10 to 12 hour shifts, several days each week. He also undertook a St. John Ambulance EMT course and is now qualified to work on their ambulances.

Jonathan also worked at the RD and E (Wonford) as a Health Care Assistant and is himself a survivor of Covid. All of this on top of postponing (but still working for) his final year exams which he eventually took in August and then gained a 2:1 which secured his place at medical school.

### Are you a Key Worker?

Share your story with us today.



VERY PROUD TO  
WORK FOR THE

**NHS**



## Socially Distanced Tea Parties & Telephone Campaign

A huge thank you to the 18 callers who reached out to the Blundellian Community during both lock-downs with a phone call (letter or email). The positive response was overwhelming – with over 350+ calls or individual emails/letters being made by 18 volunteers.

We would also like to thank the following callers for helping to make this initiative possible; Janet Wooff nee Frankpitt (GH 1980-82 & Old Blundellian Club Secretary), Charles Abram (M 1959-64), Katharine Sendell (GH 2007-14), Heather Cordon (Staff), 12 current pupils and the Development Office.

Once social restrictions were eased back in the Summer, small socially distanced tea parties were organised, allowing 6 members of the OB Community to meet for a social cuppa. More of these local tea parties will be organised once we are able to do so. Please contact the Old Blundellian Club to sign up for these event notices or to organise an event in your area.

Names left to right: Mark Ogden (P 1957-61), Alex Brook nee Brownlow (GH 1981-83), Elizabeth Slade (Tiverton Mayoress, Past Parent), Janet Wooff nee Frankpitt (GH 1980-82 & OB Club Secretary) with sausage dog Beatrice and Jenny Pack (OB widow).



## Peter Blundell's Society Donation for Houses

Thank you to the Peter Blundell's Society for providing each House with a donation to 'enhance the House life.' The projects for support will be nominated and chosen by the pupils within each House. So far, GH has used the donation to enhance the kitchen and social areas of the House.





## Sir John Margetson (OH 1941–45)

*"Margetson earned a reputation among Foreign Office staff for getting things done. Sir John Margetson, who has died aged 93, was an accomplished diplomat who survived a spell as speech-writer to the mercurial Labour Foreign Secretary George Brown to become Britain's ambassador in Hanoi, deputy head of mission at the United Nations, and finally ambassador to the Netherlands."*



Margetson boarded at Blundell's School under Headmaster, Neville Gorton. He was a choral scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, completing his degree in 1951 and later joining the Colonial Service.

With an early end to British rule inevitable, Margetson resigned from the Colonial Service in 1959 and joined the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS, or MI6). David Cornwell (John le Carré) joined at the same time and became a friend. Margetson learnt the spy's "tradecraft" – including running agents, using firearms and how to kill with a single blow.

Once on the strength, Margetson found Rudolf Hess's long-forgotten trousers in a secret safe as MI6 moved its headquarters. He was posted to the Hague in 1962, boarding Soviet ships at Rotterdam at night to obtain photos of Russian port facilities. Two years on, he resigned from MI6 (as did Cornwell) and took a late-entry exam into the Diplomatic Service.

At the Foreign Office, he soon found himself writing George Brown's speeches. Once Brown, "a sort of genius, but impossible to work for", rang him at 2 am asking for a speech on Vietnam for a Commons debate that evening. Margetson located a typist, found a senior official homeward bound from an embassy dinner to clear the text, and posted it through Brown's letter box in Carlton House Terrace.

When Brown resigned in 1968, Margetson was posted to Saigon where he ran the embassy and oversaw a large British medical team working at the city's children's hospital. Returning home in 1970, he spent a year on the FCO's Indo-China desk, then was seconded to Burke Trend's Cabinet secretariat, briefing the Prime Minister (Edward Heath, then briefly Wilson) on foreign affairs, and servicing the Cabinet and its defence and foreign policy committee. He found taking minutes difficult, as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Heath's Foreign Secretary, always had a ballpoint pen in his mouth which rendered him inaudible.



(continued)

In 1978, he was sent as Ambassador to Hanoi, by then the capital of the unified Vietnam, a posting regarded in the FCO as the toughest in the world. The Vietnamese accepted Margetson, despite his having served in Saigon, because they hoped for British aid. But London cut this off when, at the end of 1978, Vietnam invaded Cambodia in support of the Khmers Rouges. Margetson earned a reputation among FCO staff for getting things done.

His final posting, from 1984 to 1987, was to the Hague, where he concentrated on convincing the Dutch that Britain was a reliable member of the EEC. He hosted visits from Margaret Thatcher and senior ministers and kept Ruud Lubbers' government on side as Britain orchestrated progress toward the single market.

Margetson retired in July 1988, and settled at Woodbridge, Suffolk. From then until 1994, when he suffered a brain haemorrhage, he chaired the Royal School of Church Music, the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Joint Committee of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music.

John Margetson married Miranda Coldstream, younger daughter of the painters Sir William Coldstream and Nancy Spender, in 1963. They had a son, Andrew, a film director, and a daughter, Clare, an editor of The Guardian.

**Sir John Margetson - born October 9 1927, died October 17 2020**

## Old Blundellian Death Notifications

From September 2020 to 12 November 2020

.....

(02.09.20) **Major John Edward Hollingshead OAM** (NC 1942-46)

(28.09.20) **Harry Griffiths** (P 1945-49)

(12.10.20) **Aubrey Davidson** (FH 1952-57)

(17.10.20) **Sir John William Denys Margetson** (OH 1941-45)

(18.10.20) **(Richard) Peter Fox** (OH 1954-57)

(02.11.20) **Martin Tinniswood** (SH 1956-60)





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*You asked, and we listened. As part of our Development and Old Blundellian Survey to our Community, over 95% of those responded, have asked for more 'Where Are They Now' stories of their peers. We have a few additional stories to add in the next edition, if you would like to also contribute an update, please contact the Development Office.*



## **William John Francis** (FH 1946-49)

After leaving in 1949, I went to Plymouth & Devonport Technical College, but found things like Calculus 'well beyond' so I signed up for National Service in the Royal Artillery for two years – but I only got as far as Salisbury Plain and Scotland. After many years of working for various companies including De La Rue, I also managed a Timber company for a few years. I also spent 20 years in the Territorial Army ending up being the Second on Command of the Light Infantry T A Battalion. Now retired, living in Ludlow with a wife and two daughters both married with two children and four grandchildren.

## **Captain Mark William Lovelace Tozer** (P 1952-55)

Now retired and living in Singapore, where I have been for 57 years. On leaving Blundell's, I entered the School of Navigation. In 1962, I joined the Ministry of Transport War Department Fleet. I gained the General Service Medal Clasp "Borneo" and was awarded the "Pingat Jasa Malaysia" for the defence of Malaysia.



In 1969, I sailed as Chief Officer on the "Neptune Topaz," their first ship and first voyage of the Company. In 1976, I was promoted to Operations Superintendent and sent to Japan until 1980. Returning to Singapore, I went into Liner Operations which I managed to 1990 when I was promoted to General Manager and ran a Container and Warehousing Services until 1995. I then returned to NOL (Neptune Orient Lines Limited) as Vice President of Special Duties. On December 31st 1998 I retired only to be called back after the Millenium as a consultant for NOL which kept me busy until 2001 when I completely retired to take busman's holidays cruising the world.





## David John Gladwell

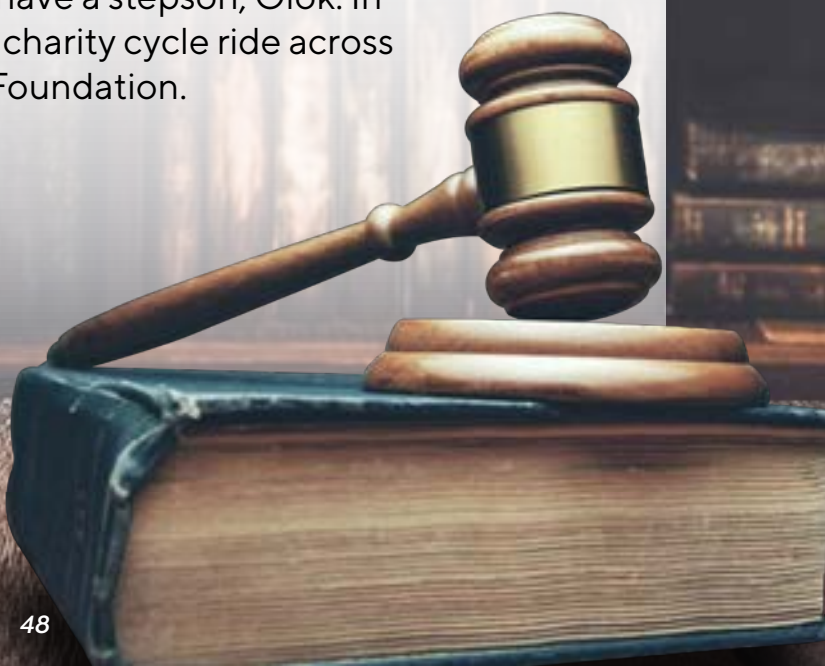
(SH 1960–65)

After leaving Blundell's I qualified for the Bar. I then entered the Government Legal Service in the Lord Chancellor's Department (now known as the Ministry of Justice). I did an LLM in European

Law at Exeter and a postgraduate course in Intellectual Property Law at Queen Mary. I chaired the committee which developed the Patents County Court, at the time a revolutionary idea. A substantial element of my work was devoted to the Council of Europe's Committee on Judicial Co-operation, of which I was ultimately the chairman. In the era after the fall of the Berlin Wall and all that ensued the Committee's work focused on the promotion of the rule of law and access to justice in the new democracies which, happily, necessitated much travel to Russia in particular, and amongst others to Georgia, Ukraine and Albania. I retired in 2007 as Master in the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, and Head of the Civil Appeals Office.

At the time of my retirement I embarked on an MSc in Therapeutic Counselling at Greenwich. I have since practised as a counsellor with Oxleas NHS Trust and, for five years, as an honorary rehabilitation counsellor with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust. I have published articles in Contemporary Psychotherapy.

I married Ragnhild in 1987 and have a stepson, Olok. In 2000, Olok and I took part in a charity cycle ride across Jordan for the Douglas Bader Foundation.





## Tim Short (P 1968-73)

I left Blundells in 1973 with few qualifications as had had little interest in schoolwork or exams and went to work in the docks in France for two years as a ships agent and stevedore. Returning to the UK I joined the Baltic Exchange as a shipbroker where I worked for a few years. In 1979, I was transferred to Vancouver and then Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In 1981, I transferred to Durban, South Africa where I operated ships carrying coal to Asia. I married in 1983 and then we returned to London that year to renovate our house in Wimbledon and then returned to South Africa in 1985.

In 1988, I started my own coal trading business and in 1994 I sold it to a multinational European based commodity group and that year moved to Sydney with my wife and our two children (8 and 3). A coal trading business again was my focus which grew over the years and in 2008 sold our company to another European group.

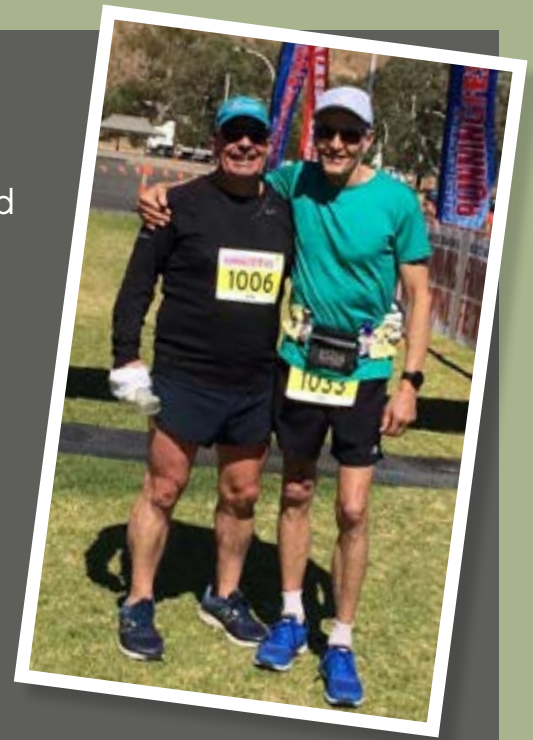
My wife and I (now married 37 years), our German Shepherd and cat still live on Sydney's north shore and my children (now grown up) also live close by and we have just had our first grandchild.

I still own two businesses, a small trading company and a private equity company and I also have a non-executive board position which all together keep my brain active.

Between the age of 50 and 64 (the present) I have run 28 marathons and have been greatly enjoying retirement over the years with ocean swimming, surfing and travel. Here I am pictured in black shorts finishing a marathon in Northern Territory, Australia. If anyone remembers me and finds themselves in Sydney please make contact. ([shortcapital@gmail.com](mailto:shortcapital@gmail.com)).

In my last school report the Headmaster, Rev AC Stimson basically concluded that my time at Blundell's was a waste of my parents money and that I was a lost cause, disruptive to others and very likely to fail in life and fall in disgrace. Being a failure both academically and socially at school and being constantly told as such, in hindsight, was a very valuable life experience. For me, it made me stronger mentally and more competitive post school which was a driving force to bring me to where I am now.

I wish everyone past, present and future at Blundells all the best .....make the most of what is a very privileged environment.







## **Emma Cockshutt** (GH 1977-79)

Now a Legal and Business Affairs consultant (Media - primarily television). Formerly Director of Legal & Business Affairs Tiger Aspect Productions (15+ years), Head of Legal & Business Affairs Talkback Productions (10 years), BBC, Barrister etc. Married to TV Drama Producer with three children.

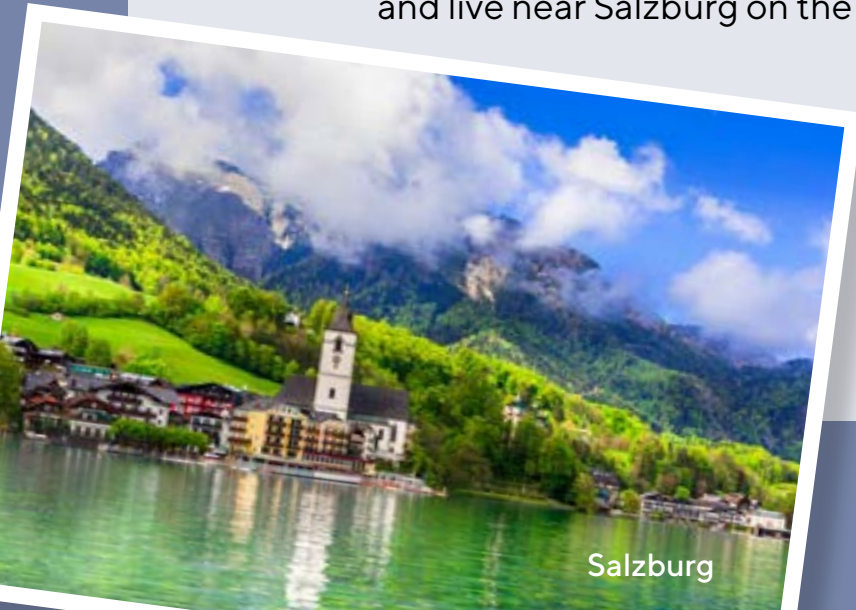
## **Matthew Hull** (TH 1988-93)

Bsc (Hons) Politics Graduate-Plymouth University. Account Executive-Ocean Media (Events Company) and Lib Dem Councillor of Richmond Upon Thames 2018- Present (Member Education & Regulatory Committees).

## **Mark Graves-Morris** (M 1970-75)

After reading Electronics and Physics, I ended up in Datacomms, working with companies like EMI, GEC, ITT and Mitsubishi Electric. I have been in Germany for 30+ years now and live near Salzburg on the Austrian border.

Optomark GmbH is my own small business in Germany and Hong Kong trading Fibre Optic Hardware from the Far East selling to Datacentres and Internet providers in Europe and USA.



Salzburg



## Hannah Prowse nee Willmer (GH 1995-00)



Currently living in Richmond with my husband, Sebastian Prowse (P 1992-97) and our two daughters. I have recently started a new role as Head of National Projects for English Heritage - with responsibility for all capital investment and conservation projects happening across the English Heritage estate (430+ sites in total!). I was previously a Preconstruction Manager for Sir Robert McAlpine Special Projects, responsible for construction projects at the Elizabeth Tower (the massive project on Big Ben), Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace and the Royal Albert Hall, amongst others.

## Max Berry (P 2010-17)

Now hosting my own radio show on Tiverton Community Radio - Tiverton's only radio station. In September 2018, I launched Max Berry Productions Limited - a multimedia business, producing video, audio and written media. MBP has taken on a variety of projects since its launch, from regularly filmed podcasts for a financial planning firm in Oxford, to promotional car review videos for a registered Volkswagen dealership in Hertfordshire, to full productions of The Max Berry Show live from the Mid Devon Show and live-streamed on TCR Radio.



I'm a student at Bristol UWE studying broadcast journalism, whilst continuing to run the business from there. I also partake in occasional freelance drum playing work, as well as with the BBC, such as a runner position I attained on Crimewatch Roadshow in the summer of 2019.







# Blundell's

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